GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:14
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
FALL IN PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
DUKHA BHAGAT;SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of agricultural produce have slumped considerably and the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their agricultural produce;

(b) if so, the comparative prices of agricultural crops during this financial year and the last year; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide remunerative price to the farmers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.14 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20T NOVEMBER, 2000 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) to (c): The prices of agricultural produce are ruling below the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government at some places. The designated central nodal agencies have been directed to procure the quantities offered by the farmers so as to ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices. The Government is also using import tariff as an instrument for controlling imports wherever necessary and encouraging exports so as to bring in balance the supply and demand for agricultural commodities. A statement showing percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers of important agricultural commodities during the current year and the last year is enclosed. Information on farm harvest prices during the current year is also being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to Starred Question No.14 due for answer on 20th November, 2000 in the Lok Sabha.

Commodities Annual percentage variation in the WPI number (ason 28-10-2000)

	2000 over 1999	1999 over 1998
Agricultural Commodities	1.0	-1.5
Rice	-7.6	20.9
Jowar	-23.3`	30.8
Bajra	-17.1	36.8
Ragi	-9.3	22.7
Maize	-3.3	13.1
Wheat	-1.8	20.7`
Barley	-23.8	46.9
Gram	11.7	2.4
Arhar	-25.2	-14.3
Moong	-2.2	3.9
Urad	16.5	18.4
Sugarcane	0.0	12.2
Cotton	8.1	-10.7
Groundnut-in-shell	-3.6	-0.7
Jute	20.9	0.0
Rapeseed/Mustard	-21.6	-20.5
Sunflower Seed	11.0	-29.2
Soyabean	16.5	-9.4
Safflower	-16.2	-13.7
Tobacco	5.4	-18.3

Copra	-42.5	21.6
Sesamum	-31.4	9.1